GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4615
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2003
SEISMIC ZONES
V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that entire country has been divided into five major Seismic Zones to compile and collect all the seismic related information;

(b) if so, the zones found to be most active and the names of states which fall under those zones; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the government to create awareness among the people for the adoption of safety measures to overcome the situation arising out of the earthquakes in these States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) Yes Sir, as per the Seismic Zoning Map published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in 1986, the country has been divided into five zones. This map has recently been updated by BIS taking into account the data sets collected during the recent earthquakes. Zone I and zone II of the earlier map has been merged and now the country is divided into only four seismic zones i.e. zone II, III, IV & V. Zone V is the severest in terms of earthquake proneness and expected damage.

(b) The areas lying in zones IV&V are considered to be most active. Zone-V comprises the entire northeastern India, parts of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttranchal, Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, a part of north Bihar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Zone-IV covers the remaining parts of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Sikkim and parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Gujarat. However, no part of the country is free from earthquake hazard.

(c) Bureau of Indian Standards has published various guidelines for safe design of structures. The Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and Ministry of Home Affairs have taken several initiatives towards earthquake awareness and dissemination of information related to construction practices and earthquake resistant design of buildings.